

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA**

CHARLESTON DIVISION

IN RE: ETHICON, INC. PELVIC REPAIR
SYSTEMS PRODUCTS LIABILITY
LITIGATION

MDL NO. 2327

QUALIFIED PROTECTIVE ORDER

The individuals listed on attached Exhibit A (“Claimants”) have asserted, or on whose behalf have been asserted, claims in the above captioned action. These individuals have retained Levin Simes LLP to represent them in the above-captioned action. Counsel agrees that they represent the individuals listed next to their names in Exhibit A.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

1. By virtue of their status as appointed representatives of the Claimants, Counsel shall resolve any potential liens and reimbursement claims, including, but not limited to, those that may be asserted with respect to federal Medicare benefits as contemplated by the Medicare Secondary Payer Act, 42 U.S.C. §1395y and interpreting case law, including but not limited to private carriers that have provided coverage pursuant to Medicare Part C (any Medicare Advantage Plan); Medicaid liens; other governmental healthcare programs with statutory reimbursement or subrogation rights (including, by way of example without limitation, TRICARE, Veteran’s Administration, and Indian Health Services benefits); private insurers and insurers represented by Rawlings & Associates and Lowey, Dannenberg, Cohen & Hart, P.C.

2. Counsel has retained Shapiro Settlement Solutions (“S3”) to identify and resolve these potential liens and reimbursement claims.
3. The entry of this HIPAA-compliant qualified protective order is necessary in this action in order to permit protected health information regarding the individuals listed on Exhibit A to be transmitted to S3, including any third party authorized by S3 or the Court to assist in the resolution of potential liens and reimbursement claims.
4. As such, it is hereby ordered:
 - a. This Qualified Protective Order shall apply to all “protected health information” and “individually identifiable health information,” as defined by 45 CFR § 160.103, or information that is otherwise protected from disclosure by the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 551a, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Pub. L. 104-191, 42 CFR § 431 Subpart F, titled “Safeguarding Information on Applicants and Recipients” and other applicable state law, created, received or collected from Plaintiffs by the Agencies, including, but not limited to: (a) names and addresses, dates of birth, social security numbers, identification numbers other demographic information that identifies, or could be used to identify the Claimants; (b) eligibility and entitlement information for the Claimants; (c) claims information relating to the past, present, or future health care of the Claimants; (d) claims information relating to the provision of healthcare to Claimants; and, (e) claims information relating to the past, present, or future payment for the provision of healthcare to Claimants.
 - b. Each healthcare insurer or other entity possessing a reimbursement or subrogation claim is hereby authorized and directed to transmit to S3 to assist in the resolution

of potential liens or reimbursement claims, any information, including claims information and other protected health information, for those Claimants against whom they may assert liens or reimbursement claims.

- c. S3 shall not use or disclose any protected health information or individually identifiable health information subject to this Qualified Protective Order for any purpose other than this litigation. Similarly, the healthcare insurers and other entities possessing a reimbursement or subrogation claim shall only use the information listed on Exhibit A for the specific purposes of transmitting to S3 any information, including claims information and other protected health information, for those Claimants associated with the above-captioned matter against whom they have asserted liens or reimbursement claims, or in whose potential settlements they may have an interest. The healthcare insurers and other entities possessing a reimbursement or subrogation claim shall only make the information for the Claimants available to those within their respective organizations who need access to the information for the Claimants for the specific purpose stated in this paragraph. If outside vendors or companies perform part or all of their tort recovery practices, the outside vendors or companies shall be expressly bound by all terms and conditions of this Qualified Protective Order.
- d. S3 shall maintain any protected health information or individually identifiable health information subject to this Qualified Protective Order in a secure and safe area and shall exercise the same standard of due and proper care with respect to the storage, custody, use and/or dissemination of such protected health information as is exercised by S3 with respect to its own confidential proprietary information.

- e. At the conclusion of this litigation, Counsel shall certify to the Agencies that the protected health information or individually identifiable health information, including all copies made, has been destroyed.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

SIGNED AND ENTERED this ____ day of _____, 2017.

JUDGE PRESIDING